

Serial No.: 09/635,073
Art Unit: 2666
Amendment dated April 13, 2004
Reply to Office Action January 13, 2004

Amendments to the Claims:

Claims 1 – 5 (canceled)

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Claim 6 (currently amended): A method for providing a subscriber with a requested level of service on a packet network and for settling costs for resources allocated according to said requested level of service, said method comprising:

storing a subscription level of service for said subscriber;

receiving a message from a user of said packet network requesting said requested level of service, said requested level of service different from said subscription level of service;

responsive to said receiving of said message, allocating resources of said packet network corresponding to said requested level of service;

receiving data from, and transmitting data to, said subscriber using said resources allocated corresponding to said requested level of service; and

based on a received request, allocating costs for providing said requested level of service to at least one of said subscriber and ~~The method of claim 5 wherein said another station is a station in communication with said subscriber, said station in communication with said subscriber using said resources allocated corresponding to said requested level of service.~~

Claim 7 (currently amended): The method of claim 6[[1]] wherein each of said requested level of service and said subscription level of service is indicative of at least one of a type of service, a class of service, a priority of service and a bandwidth.

Claim 8 (currently amended): The method of claim 6[[1]] wherein said user is one of said subscriber and said another station.

Claim 9 (currently amended): A method of enabling a subscriber to use resources on a packet

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network and to allocate costs for said resources, said resources indicative of a requested level of service, said method comprising:

transmitting a request to said packet network indicative of said requested level of service for said subscriber, said requested level of service different from a subscription level of service provided to said subscriber by a service subscription of said subscriber; and

transmitting a request to said packet network indicative of a desired allocation of costs for providing said requested level of service, said desired allocation of costs being different from an allocation of costs subscribed to by said subscriber.

~~responsive to said request transmitted, receiving notification of resources allocated on said packet network, said resources corresponding to said requested level of service; and~~

~~transmitting data to, and receiving data from, said packet network using said resources allocated.~~

Claim 10 (original): The method of claim 9 wherein said transmitting is responsive to a request received directly or indirectly from said subscriber.

Claim 11 (original): The method of claim 9 further comprising:

prior to said transmitting, allocating resources of said packet network according to said subscription level of service.

Claim 12 (currently amended): The method of claim 2[[10]] ~~wherein said request further compris[es]ing: a request for settling said costs associated with said~~

receiving notification of at least one of allowance of said desired allocation of costs, and allocation of resources allocated on said packet network corresponding to said requested level of service; and

transmitting data to, and receiving data from, said packet network using said resources at said requested level of service with said desired allocation of costs.

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Claim 13 (currently amended): The method of claim 9 wherein each said request is transmitted by one of said subscriber and another station.

Claims 14 – 16 (canceled)

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Claim 17 (currently amended): A media gateway in a packet network, said media gateway providing communication between a first station and said packet network and a second media gateway providing communication between a second station and said packet network, said media gateway adapted to:

allocate resources for said first station, said resources forming a first connection providing communication from said media gateway over said packet network to said second media gateway, said first connection adapted to provide a first service level;

transmit a request for communication with said second station, said request providing network connection information about said first connection and said first service level;

receive a message providing network connection information about a second connection and a second service level, said second service level associated with said second connection, said second connection providing communication between said second media gateway and said packet network;

modify said first connection to provide said second service level;

transmit data received from said first station destined for said second station to a[[said]] network address of said second media gateway using said first connection; and

transmit data received from said second station destined for said first station to a[[said]] network address of said first media gateway using said second connection.

Claim 18 (original): The media gateway of claim 17 further adapted to:

prior to said allocating, receiving a service request from said first station, said service request

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requesting said first level of service; and

wherein said allocating is responsive to said service request received.

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Claim 19 (currently amended): The media gateway of claim 17 wherein said service request further comprises a request for a settlement procedure for said modification of said first connection; and further comprising ~~prior to said receiving confirmation~~, transmitting a settlement message requesting that costs of associating said first connection with said second service level be allocated according to said settlement procedure.

Claim 20 (original): The media gateway of claim 17 wherein said media gateway and said second media gateway are serviced by a single media gateway controller.

Claim 21 (original): The media gateway of claim 17 further adapted to:
receive a modification request triggered by one of said first station, said second media gateway, a media gateway controller, said second station and a third party; and
modify said first connection responsive to said modification request.

Claim 22 (original): The media gateway of claim 17 further adapted to:
receive a modification request from a media gateway controller; and
modify said first connection responsive to said modification request.

Claim 23 (original): A media gateway controller in a data network, said media gateway controller for establishing communication between a first media gateway and a second media gateway over a packet network, said first media gateway servicing a first station and said second media gateway servicing a second station, said media gateway controller adapted to:
receive a request from said first media gateway, said request requesting a level of service for a

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connection for communication between said first media gateway and said second media gateway, an address for a second station and a first network address associated with said connection terminating at said first media gateway, said first station subscribing to a subscription level of service different from said level of service requested;

transmit a communication request to said second media gateway, said communication request requesting said second media gateway allocate resources for communication between said second media gateway and said first media gateway over said packet network for said connection;

receive from said second media gateway a network address associated with said connection terminating at said second media gateway;

transmit to said first media gateway a response to said request, said response indicating a level of service to be provided to said first station in view of said service level requested; and

said connection comprising an upstream connection for transmissions from said first media gateway to said second media gateway and a downstream connection for transmissions from said second media gateway to said first media gateway.

Claim 24 (currently amended): The media gateway controller of claim 23 wherein said media gateway controller communicates with said second media gateway[[MG]] via a second media gateway controller.

Claim 25 (original): The media gateway controller of claim 23 wherein said service level provided for said upstream connection is different from said service level provided for said downstream connection.

Claim 26 (original): The media gateway controller of claim 23 further adapted to:
receive a request to modify said connection, said request indicating modification of at least one of: said level of service of said upstream connection; said level of service of said downstream

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connection; and allocation of costs of said connection.

Claim 27 (original): The media gateway controller of claim 23 wherein said first media gateway and said second media gateway are serviced by said media gateway controller.

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Claim 28 (original): The media gateway controller of claim 23 wherein said level of service to be provided is different from: said requested level of service; and said subscription level of service.

Claim 29 (original): The media gateway controller of claim 23 further adapted to:

transmit to said first media gateway a message requesting modification of said level of service of said connection to be provided to said first station, said modification modifying said level of service to be provided to said requested level of service.

Claim 30 (original): A computer readable media containing software for a media gateway in a packet network, said media gateway communicating with a first station and said packet network and a second media gateway communicating with a second station and said packet network, said computer readable media adapting said media gateway to:

allocate resources to said first station, said resources forming a first communication connection providing communication between said media gateway and said packet network, said first communication connection adapted to provide a first service level;

transmit a request for communication with said second station, said request providing network connection information about said first communication connection and said first service level;

receive a message providing network connection information about a second communication connection and a second service level, said second service level associated with said second communication connection, said second communication connection providing communication between said second media gateway and said packet network;

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receive confirmation of modification of said first connection, said modification adapting said first connection to provide said second service level;

transmit data received from said first station and destined for said second station using said first communication connection; and

transmit data received from said second station and destined for said first station using said second communication connection.

Claim 31 (currently amended): A method of allocating costs associated with providing communication between a user of a packet network and said packet network, said method comprising:

receiving from a station a request for a modification to a service level associated with a connection providing communication between said user and said packet network;

~~responsive to said request, modifying said service level associated with said connection;~~

receiving a modified settlement procedure which differs from a settlement procedure subscribed to by said station; and

determining whether said modified settlement procedure can be accommodated;

if said modified settlement procedure can be accommodated, modifying said service level associated with said connection; and

allocating costs associated with said modifying in accordance with said modified settlement procedure.

Claim 32 (currently modified): The method of claim 31 wherein said station is one of said user and another station, and said modified settlement procedure is received from one of said user and said another station.

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Claim 33 (currently amended): The method of claim 31 wherein said determining allocating comprises:

transmitting said modified settlement procedure to a network element in said packet network, said network element responsible for collecting call detail information; and

receiving from said network element a response that an acknowledgement of receipt of said modified settlement procedure transmitted to said network element is allowable.

Claim 34 – 36 (canceled)

Claim 37 (withdrawn): A bridge in communication with a packet network, said bridge adapted to:

establish a first connection with a first station over said packet network, said first connection adapted to provide a first service level;

establish a second connection with a second station over said packet network, said second connection adapted to provide a second service level; and

modify said first connection such that said first connection is adapted to provide said second service level.

Claim 38 (withdrawn): The bridge of claim 36 further adapted to:

provide communications received from said first station to said second station and communications received from said second station to said first station.

Claim 39 (withdrawn): The bridge of claim 36 further adapted to:

receive instructions from one of said first station, said second station and a third party requesting at least one of a new service level and a new settlement procedure; and

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implementing said instructions received.